

Application/Control Number: 10/050,464

Page 2

Art Unit: \*\*\*

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Art Unit: \*\*\*

45

1. (withdrawn) A method of purchasing an aircraft by multiple owners comprising:
  - a) obtaining a binding proposal from a source of aircraft;
  - b) collecting funds from a plurality of fractional purchasers;
  - c) depositing the collected funds into an escrow account;
  - d) executing a purchase order for an aircraft after the collected funds exceeds a predetermined threshold amount;
  - e) transferring at least a portion of the collected funds to the source of aircraft.
2. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein step a) further comprises obtaining the binding proposal from an aircraft manufacturer.
3. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein step b) comprises collecting funds from a plurality of fractional purchasers using a sales entity, and further comprising:
  - f) transferring at least a second portion of the collected funds to the sales entity.
4. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - g) providing each of the plurality of fractional purchasers a number of hours of flight time about a combination of the purchased aircraft and a set of other fractionally purchased aircraft.
5. (withdrawn) The method of claim 4 further comprising:
  - h) reducing each fractional owner's number of hours based on use of flight time based on the quantity of passengers on each flight allocated to each fractional owner.
6. (withdrawn) The method of claim 4 further comprising:
  - i) scheduling a regular, repeating flight time for the purchased aircraft.
7. (withdrawn) The method of claim 4 wherein step g) further comprises determining each fractional purchaser's number of hours based on a fraction purchased by the fractional purchaser.
8. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - j) scheduling a regular, repeating flight time for the purchased aircraft.
9. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein step j) further comprises scheduling a regular, repeating flight time on a single air route.
10. (currently amended) A method comprising:
  - a) effecting a purchase of a first aircraft by a first plurality of fractional owners;
  - b) effecting a lease granted by the first plurality of fractional owners to a first entity, the first entity operable to coordinate maintenance and operation of the first aircraft;
  - c) providing the first entity with a first fee payment in exchange for the coordination of maintenance and operation of the first aircraft;
  - d) in a computer-based reservation system, determining and storing a use allocation for each fractional owner in an amount based on a fraction of the first aircraft owned by the fractional owner, the use allocation comprising a measure of flight usage of one or more fractionally-owned aircraft including the first aircraft;
  - e) in the computer-based reservation system, reducing and storing the use allocation for more than one fractional owner after a single flight that includes at least one passenger associated with each of the more than one fractional owners.
11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the step e) further comprises:
  - examining in a charter entity responsibility for providing the first entity with the first fee payment; and
  - receiving into the charter entity second fee payments from each fractional purchaser in an amount based on the use allocation determined in step d) for each fractional purchaser.

Art Unit: \*\*\*

45

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising determining the second fee payments based on the first fee payment and a service fee attributed to services provided by the charter entity.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the amount of the second fee payment is determined in part by:

determining the first fee payment;

determining a total use allocation for the first aircraft;

determining the pro rata portion of the first fee payment attributed to the second fee payment of each fractional owner by dividing a use allocation determined in step c) for the fractional owner by the total use allocation for the first aircraft.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the first fee payment is determined based on operating costs of maintaining and operating an aircraft and fixed costs of maintaining and operating an aircraft.

10. (previously presented) A method comprising:

a) effecting a purchase of a first aircraft by a first plurality of fractional owners;

b) effecting a lease granted by the first plurality of fractional owners to a first entity, the first entity operating to coordinate maintenance and operation of the first aircraft;

c) providing the first entity with a first fee payment in exchange for the coordination of maintenance and operation of the first aircraft;

d) in a computer based reservation system, determining and storing a use allocation for each fractional owner in an amount based on a fraction of the first aircraft owned by the fractional owner, the use allocation comprising a measure of flight usage of one or more fractionally-owned aircraft including the first aircraft;

e) in the computer based reservation system, totaling and storing the use allocation for more than one fractional owner after a single flight that includes at least one passenger associated with each of the more than one fractional owners.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the step c) further comprises:

assuming in a charter entity responsibility for providing the first entity with the first fee payment; and

receiving into the charter entity second fee payments from each fractional purchaser in an amount based on the use allocation determined in step d) for each fractional purchaser.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising determining the second fee payments based on the first fee payment and a service fee attributed to services provided by the charter entity.

46

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the amount of the second fee payment is determined in part by:

determining the first fee payment;

determining a total use allocation for the first aircraft;

determining the pro rata portion of the first fee payment attributed to the second fee payment of each fractional owner by dividing a use allocation determined in step c) for the fractional owner by the total use allocation for the first aircraft.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the first fee payment is determined based on operating costs of maintaining and operating an aircraft and fixed costs of maintaining and operating an aircraft.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein fixed costs of maintaining and operating an aircraft includes flight crew salary expense.

Art Unit: \*\*\*

16. (currently amended) A method comprising:

- a) effecting a purchase of a first aircraft by a first plurality of fractional owners;
- b) effecting a lease granted by the first plurality of fractional owners to a first entity, the first entity operable to coordinate maintenance and operation of the first aircraft;
- c) providing the first entity with a first fee payment in exchange for the coordination of maintenance and operation of the first aircraft;
- d) in a computer based reservation system, determining and storing a use allocation for each fractional owner in an amount based on a fraction of the first aircraft owned by each of the fractional owners, the use allocation comprising a measure of flight usage of one or more fractionally-owned aircraft including the first aircraft;
- e) providing regular, repeating scheduled flights of one or more fractionally-owned aircraft.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein step c) further comprises:

assuming in a charter entity responsibility for providing the first entity with the first fee payment; and

receiving into the charter entity second fee payments from each fractional purchaser in an amount based on the use allocation determined in step d) for each fractional purchaser.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17 further comprising determining the second fee payments based on the first fee payment and a service fee attributed to services provided by the charter entity.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the amount of the second fee payment is determined in part by:

- determining the first fee payment;
- determining a total use allocation for the first aircraft;
- determining the pro rata portion of the first fee payment attributable to the second fee payment of each fractional owner by dividing a use allocation determined in step c) for the fractional owner by the total use allocation for the first aircraft.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the first fee payment is determined based on operating costs of the maintaining and operating an aircraft and fixed costs of maintaining an operating an aircraft.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein fixed costs of maintaining and operating an aircraft includes flight crew salary expenses.